MINUTES

OF THE

Tenth Annual Session

OF THE

MUD CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

LIBERTY CHURCH, JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALA.,

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, OCT. 14 and 15, 1881.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.:
W. & C. ROBERTS, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1881.

MINUTES.

LIBERTY CHURCH, JEFFERSON CO., ALA., }
FRIDAY, October 14, 1881 }

According to appointment the Mud Creek Baptist Association, in its tenth anual session assembled with the Liberty church, and the appointee being absent the alternate, Rev. J. N. McFall preached the Introductory Sermon, followed by B. S. Thompson, then adjourned one hour and a half for dinner. Delegates then assembled in the church, and were called to order by former Moderator, Elder T. A. Norwood; prayer by Elder John I. Gilbert. The letters of the several churches were then read by Elder J. H. Moody and W. B. Vines, and delegates enrolled.

The delegates then came forward and voted for Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Elder J. H. Moody, Moderator, and W. B. Vines, Clerk.

APPOINTED COMMITTEES.

On Preaching.—M. M. Gwin, J. M. Hyche, Thos. Birchfield and deacons of Liberty church.

CALLED FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

Canaan.—S. T. Huey, Jos. B. Glenn and R. Y. Robertson delegates. Also, Revs. M. M. Wood, R. E. Huey, O. J. Waldrop and B. M. Waldrop from Canaan Association. On motion of Elder T. A. Norwood the delegates and letter were received and delegates and ministers invited to seats.

Harmony.—Brothers Miles Parsons and A. Riley with letter and minutes, invited to seats.

North River.—Elder A. White and Owen Franklin.

Tuscaloosa.—Elder W. J. Herrin with letter and minutes.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE.

Canaan.—Revs. T. A. Norwood, J. N. McFall, B. S. Thompson and J. H. Moody.

Harmony.—Elder B. S. Thompson and Wm. H. Batson. Thompson to write.

North River.—Elder J. H. Moody, Dr. E. Foster, W. C. Gilmore and W. P. Salter. W. C. Gilmore to write.

Tuscaloosa.—Elder B. S. Thompson, Dr. E. Foster, Monroe Hosmer and J. H. Moody. Thompson to write.

On motion of Thos. A. Norwood, the regular order of business in Article 6th was dispensed with in order to take up other business.

Report of Committee on Devotion.

We, your Committee on Devotion beg leave to report services to-night by Rev. J. I. Gilbert, followed by R. E. Huey; prayer meeting to-morrow at 10 o'clock conducted by O. J. Waldrop. Preaching to-morrow by Brother M. M. Wood, at 11 a. m.

M. M. GWIN, Chairman.

On motion of Elder Norwood, the 8th Article of business was dispensed with in order to reach other business.

On report of executive committee appointed Elders T. A. Norwood, B. S. Thompson and W. C. Gilmore.

On motion of Elder Norwood, 12th Article of business was dispensed with.

On motion of T. A. Norwood, M. M. Gwin was elected Treasurer of this Association by acclamation.

On motion the letters from the two districts were read and referred to a special committee consisting of T. A. Norwood and J. H. LaFoy for amendment.

APPOINTED COMMITTEES.

Nominations.—J. M. Hyche, John H. Batson and W. H. LaFoy.

Documents.—J. I. Gilbert, W. C. Gilmore and W. P. Salter.

Sabbath Schools.—Revs. J. N. McFall, J. I. Gilbert and W. C. Gilmore.

State and Foreign Missions.—Dr. E. Foster, Elders B. S. Thompson and T. A. Norwood.

Home Missions.—John H. Batson, T. A. Norwood and J. K. P. Laird.

Temperance.—Elder B. S. Thompson, J. M. Hyche and T. A. Norwood.

Education.—M. M. Gwin, B. S. Thompson and Dr. E. Foster.

Finance.—W. H. Batson, P. A. Wilkey and Thomas A. Birchfield.

Adjourned until 9 to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY.

OCTOBER 15.

The Association met in the church this morning at 9 o'clock, and was called to order by the Moderator, after

which a hymn was sung and prayer offered by Elder H. G. Smith. The roll was then called and absentees marked. Constitution and Rules of Decorum were then read, after which minutes of yesterday were read and adopted.

On motion of Elder T. A. Norwood, an Executive Committee of five was appointed to serve during the year, consisting of Brothers J. M. Hyche, Thomas Birchfield, M. M. Gwin, S. F. Wilkey and W. B. Vines.

Report of Committee on Documents.

We, your Committee on Documents beg leave to report that after careful examination, we find nothing worth our attention, only Mud Creek church petitions for the next session of this body. Also, after examining the Circular Letter written by Elder B. S. Thompson, cordially endorse it and ask for its adoption and for it to be spread on the minutes.

After some discussion on the adoption of the Circular Letter, Elder T. A. Norwood moved that it be laid over and considered until the next meeting of the body—carried.

On motion the Association then adjourned until 2 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

After singing prayer was offered by the Moderator. Committee on Devotion then reported preaching to-night at candlelight by Rev. M. M. Wood, followed by Elder H. G. Smith.

On motion of Elder T. A. Norwood, the report on Documents was adopted with amendment as follows: Circular Letter be deferred for next session of this body.

Report of Committee on Nominations.

We find that there is a request from Mud Creek church for the next session of this body, but after consulting the delegates present from Mud Creek church, also the delegates from Friendship church, we recommend that the next session of this body be held with Friendship church, commencing on Friday before the Third Sabbath in October, 1882. Introductory Sermon to be preached by Elder Wm. Hanna, Elder J. A. Markham, alternate; Elder J. H. Moody to preach Missionary Sermon on Sabbath at 11 a. m. An Essay to be written by Elder B. S. Thompson, subject: Mathew xi chap., 7th to 14th verses inclusive.

JAMES M. HYCHE, Chairman.

Report on Finance.

The Committee on Finance report the receipt of $23 to be used in printing minutes and associational purposes.

WM. BATSON, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report: We think there is great responsibility resting on us as parents, to raise up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and teach the scripture to all, old and young, and that there is no more efficient way than the Sabbath Schools. We also recommend the *Alabama Baptist*, *Kind Words* and other religious reading matter to be used in families.

J. I. GILBERT, Chairman.

It was then agreed that there would be a mass meeting held on to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, and the subject of Sabbath Schools discussed. Meeting to be opened by Rev. M. M. Wood.

The Home Board of Alabama Baptist State Convention asks of the Mud Creek Association $104 for objects fostered by the State Convention, and the Committee on Home and Foreign Missions report as follows:

We your committee on Home and Foreign Missions beg leave to report, that we recommend that this body co-operate with the above suggestion and contribute our pro rata share from each church.

E. FOSTER, Chairman.

After the report of Committee on Home and Foreign Missions, a resolution was offered and adopted that we co-operate with, and raise the amount asked for by the Home Board of the State Baptist Convention. The churches pledging themselves, with the exception of Blue Creek—it not being represented in this body—but we think Blue Creek church will pay her pro rata share of the amount.

Report of Committee on Education.

We, your Committee on Education beg leave to report the following thoughts on this all important subject: We feel that the time is now upon us, as an associational body, when we not only should act, but must act. It should be our chief and special object to devise some means by which *religious education*, both to children and all in the bounds of the Association can reap the great benefit derived therefrom.

The time being very short, we can only recommend that we should use every energy, and every self-denying effort should be made by all of our people, to secure for the rising generation such an amount of useful learning as may be within our reach. The Free Schools, Sabbath Schools and cheap papers, within our reach, we recommend the use of; and let us do all in our power to encourage the education of our children. To those of our brethren who wish to become educated in the ministry we cordially recommend the Howard College as a fine institution of learning, especially for Theology. Respectfully submitted,

E. FOSTER, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Intemperance.

We, your Committee on Intemperance beg leave to report as follows:

1. That the several churches of this body use all their influence against this great evil, and withdraw from any brother who drinks intoxicating drinks as a beverage, or to excess.

2. We further recommend that the several churches in this Association be instructed, through their pastors, to use all their influence to get a law passed to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors outside of incorporated cities of this county. Respectfully submitted,

JAMES M. HYCHE, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Home Missions.

We, your Committee on Home Missions beg leave to report as follows: That this Association send out an itinerant in the bounds, or adjacent bounds of the Mud Creek Association for the purpose of preaching and organizing Sabbath Schools, and that he be instructed, by this body, to preach one sermon at each church on the subject of Home Missions, giving an opportunity to all to contribute to the support of the same.

THOS. A. NORWOOD, Chairman.

A resolution was passed instructing the Executive Committee to secure a missionary to labor in the bounds of the Mud Creek Association, so long as funds would admit.

Report of Executive Committee.

We, your committee beg leave to report that we appoint Elder J. H. Moody as an itinerant to preach in the bounds of the Mud Creek Association, and organize Sunday Schools, &c.

Respectfully submitted,

M. M. GWIN, Chairman.

Rssolved, That we amend the 5th Article of the Constitution by striking out that part from the word "nevertheless" to the close of said Article; also that the Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith be spread on this minute.

Resolved, That there be fifteen dollars of present fund paid for printing minutes, and the remainder be paid to the Clerk of this Association.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be returned to the members of Liberty church, and this community, for the manner in which they have entertained us.

Bro. M. M. Gwin then stated that he wished to give old brother H. G. Smith something, and wanted to see how many was willing to give him something—and there was $7 40 made up for him.

Resolved, That the collection taken up to-morrow be used for the purpose of paying an itinerant.

Then after appropriate services the Association adjourned to meet with Friendship church, 21 miles northeast of Tuscaloosa, in Tuscaloosa county, on Friday before the Third Sabbath in October 1882.

J. H. MOODY, Moderator.

W. B. VINES, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Mud Creek Baptist Association.

2. It shall be formed of delegates from all the churches which may connect themselves with this body.

3. Any church may be admitted into this body by general consent of the members present at any regular session.

4. Any church may withdraw from this body at her own discretion on proper application for dismission.

5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered as an Advisory Council in all matters relative to their internal affairs.

6. The churches in the union shall transmit each annual session of the Association with a written communication specifying the names of their messengers and the state of their church since the last session.

7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to five delegates. Any church failing to represent herself as above described, shall state her reason at the next session.

8. Newly constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

9. The Association when convening shall be governed by a regular and proper rule of decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend according to her own views.

10. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be chosen by, and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that all the rules of decorum be strictly observed, and take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty it shall be to make proper and correct minutes of the Association.

11. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union any church which may violate the constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

12. The Association shall furnish the churches with minutes according to the funds sent up for said purpose by the church each session.

13. Every query sent by a particular church must be inserted in her letters certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile and has failed: In such a case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered as an advisory answer, which shall be entered upon the minutes.

14. Queries that immediately concern the general union of the churches sent up by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion shall be taken up and decided upon as soon as practicable.

15. The Association shall have a Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive all monies from the hands of the Finance Committee and pay it out at the order of the Association.

16. There shall be an Association book provided, in which the minutes of every annual session shall be recorded.

17. The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand, unless it be in extraordinary cases.

18. Minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and clerk if necessary before the session rises.

19. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the members may deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time, also it shall be his duty to see the rules of Decorum are attended and to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before that body.

3. Any member not satisfied with his decisions on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the same day that the decision is made, but at no other time.

4. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a true record of the transactions of the Asssociation.

5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

6. The Moderator when addressed for leave of speech shall signify the same by naming them or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject under consideration or use words of personal reflection, or with a view of calling to order for some particular purpose, and any motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless withdrawn by him who made it.

8. Every case taken up by the Association after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall put the question, and if necessary the sense of the body may be taken by rising to their feet.

9. When anything is taken up by the Association it shall first be decided upon before another is proposed.

10. No person shall depart from the services of the Association without leave of the same.

11. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address to each other.

12. The names of the members shall be called as often as is necessary.

13. No person shall be indulged in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in any time of public speech or other practice that would dishonor the Association.

14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as others, provided he appoint some other member to take his seat while he is sperking, but shall not vote unless the Assocation be equally divided, then he shall give the casting vote.

15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject without first obtaining leave of the Association, unless to explain.

16. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reproved, at the discretion of the Moderator, but only on the day the breach is made.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost three in one.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God: and the only true rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.
4. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in, by his own free will and holiness.
5. We believe the doctrine of Election through Santification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the merits of Jesus Christ.
7. We believe the Saints shall persevere in grace, and not finally fall away.
8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only proper Subjects, and do conscientiously believe that the true mode of Baptism is immersion.
9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and general judgment.
10. We believe the joys of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
11. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances only such as have been called of God, and regularly baptised and approved by the church, and come under the imposition of hand by a presbytery.
12. We belseve that none but believers have a right to the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	DELEGATES NAMES. Absentees marked thus*	Baptised	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Restored	Dead	Total Membership	Money Sent
FIRST DISTRICT.											
Sardis	J. N. McFall	Jonesboro	J. N. McFall, T. W. Bridges,* D. F. Staggs,* O. Z. J. Waldrop, J. E. Parsons* and Gordon Parsons	3	2	1			2	32	$2 25
Mud Creek	J. A. Markham	Wetona	J. H. Batson, Wm. H. Batson, J. K. P. Laird, and T. R. Cargil	14	2	2	3	1	1	91	3 25
Big Creek	B. S. Thompson	Hayes	G. W. Maddox,, M. B. Maddox,* A. Lawson	1	2	4	1			32	2 00
Black Warrior	J. I. Gilbert	Hayes	J. F. Wilkey, P. A. Wilkey, A. H. Johnson,* W. N. Gilbert	3		4	3		2	59	1 20
Liberty	A. White	Short Creek	W. B. Vines, W. M. Vines, W. P. Salter, John Vines, Jr.							55	3 00
Blue Creek			Not Represented								
Smithville	J. H. Moody	Toadvine	J. H. Moody, Dr. E. Foster, J. M. Hyche, L. X. Smith	23	16					53	3 40
SECOND DISTRICT.											
Davis Creek	W. J. Herrin	Wetona	T. A. Norwood, W. M. Hanna,* W. M. Lawrence,* Monroe Hosmer			2	2	1		51	1 25
Antioch			Berry Hyche								1 50
Prude's Creek	J. I. Gilbert	Hayes	J. I. Gilbert,* J. M. Gilbert,* J. J. Gwin,* T. L. Birchfield,* E. C. Beck,*	2	4	3	3		1	42	1 20
Friendship	Wm. Hanna	"	Thos. J. Birchfield, D. J. Hanna,* W. H. LaFoy, John Ethridge*		2		5	2	4	48	2 05
New Providence	B. S. Thompson	"									1 00